

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 837

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to congratulate William Woodruff upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is William "Woody" Woodruff, who has devoted nearly five decades to the education and instruction of young students and athletes in Tennessee; on March 18, 2006, Mr. Woodruff will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame (TSSAA), a recognition most befitting of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean born in Memphis, William Woodruff graduated from Booker T. Washington High School; he received his bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1959 and an M.E.D. degree in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Woody Woodruff began his legendary coaching career at George Washington Carver High School in Memphis, where he coached golf and built the legendary Carver "Mighty Cobra" football program; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-four year coaching career at Carver High, Coach Woodruff guided his football teams to more than 100 victories, three division championships, and the TSSAA playoffs in 1977-1978, reaching the 1978 semi-final game; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Coach Woody Woodruff's tutelage, eight Carver High Mighty Cobras went on to play in the National Football League including, Larry "Zero" Stevenson, Robert "Razorback" Jones, James "Fullie" Thaxton, Terry Lewis, Jerry Dandridge, Keith "Bell" Clark, Gerald Perry, and Willie Wilkerson; and

WHEREAS, since the days of his coaching career, William Woodruff has continued to give of his time and considerable talents by serving as a volunteer official at track and field meets, instructing junior golfers, selecting all-tourney basketball teams, and aiding the youth of his community in numerous programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the impact Coach Woodruff has had on his former players and students is unquestionable and exemplary; in 2003, a group of alumni football players from Carver High School established the "Coach William 'Woody' Woodruff Scholarship Award" to be given annually to a Carver senior who best combines four criteria: athleticism, academics, community involvement, and attendance; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and greatly admired by his peers and colleagues, Coach Woodruff is a member of the American Football Coaches Association, the "Pro-Duffers," the "Loafers, Incorporated," and the West Tennessee Track Officials; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Woody Woodruff was named "Coach of the Year" by the Vanguard Club in 1976 and 1978, the Joseph P. Gattas MIAA "Coach of the Year" in 1978, and Pro-Duffer of the Year for 1998; and

WHEREAS, Coach Woodruff was awarded the Trailblazer Award for outstanding service to the youth of the Mid-South Junior Golf Association in 2000, received the "Black History Award" from Push Excel in 1998, and was inducted into the Vanguard Club "Hall of Fame" in 1999; and

WHEREAS, not only is this remarkable man acclaimed for his success as a coach, he is known for his excellence as a teacher and administrator. Mr. Woodruff currently serves as the Assistant Principal of Messick Vocational Tech Center in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, his educational, athletic, and civic endeavors aside, Woody Woodruff has always maintained the highest family values and is most grateful for the love and

companionship he shares with his wife, Althea Washington Woodruff; he is also the loving father of William Woodruff, Jr., Carolyn Ragsdale, Charlotte Mathis, and Wanda Woodruff; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Coach William Woodruff has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, William Woodruff, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the induction of Coach William "Woody" Woodruff into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his substantial legacy as a teacher, administrator, coach, and community servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.